

Station CFCF

Kamp Kanawana

June 10, 1939

9.45 p.m.

*Kamp Kanawana*  
Announcer.....Good evening ladies and gentlemen. For the past two Saturday evenings at this time we have had with us here in the studio of CFCF, Mr. Macdiarmid, the director, and Dr. Mitchell, the medical advisor of Kamp Kanawana, the YMCA summer camp for boys. They have told us graphically of the facilities of the camp, of the care taken in the physical, spiritual and intellectual development of the campers and of the precautions observed to safeguard health and safety. Following their talks we have had <sup>so</sup> many requests for further information that we have brought to the studio to-night, three persons who have had a long association with Kanawana and we are going to ask them to tell you something further about the camp, which has been truly described as "the Boy's Paradise in the Laurentians".

Here are Junior Taylor, 14 years old who has been a camper for the past four years, Basil Burgess, a camper at Kanawana since he was a little fellow and a leader for the past three years, and J. F. Cartier, a member of the Camp Board, and father of a boy who thinks Kanawana the only place to spend his summer.

First, here's Junior Taylor. Junior will you tell us, and our listening audience, something about Kanawana and why you go back there each year.

Junior.....You bet I will. I went to camp first in 1935 and haven't missed a year since. I can hardly wait until June 24th when it opens again, and I'm going to be there among the first. I don't know just why I like Kanawana so much, but it does something to you, that makes you want to go back. I think its partly the fun you have, and partly the spirit that is there.



A fellow has a chance to be himself and to do a lot of things he wants to do. You know, in the city, there's always someone to tell a boy what he shouldn't do. But at camp they tell you what you can do and there's always somebody there to help you do it.

Announcer....That's interesting. Tell us what you mean by someone to help  
~~Junior~~ you do it.

Junior.....Well, the staff and the leaders are always ready to help you  
 Taylor out. If you like swimming, they teach you. If you want to go on a hike, they go along with you and teach you how to pack and how to carry a packsack, and how to build an overnight shelter, and to cook and all that sort of thing.

Then if you want to make something in the craftshop, there's someone there to help you do it. And the meals, oh boy, they're great. Chef McHardy did a great job last year, and we're all glad he's coming back again.

Another thing I like are the campfires. Sitting around the fire at night with a bunch of fellows is great. We sing songs, play stunts, someone tells a story, and it closes with a hymn and a prayer. Then we get chased off to bed. But somehow you don't seem to mind it in camp like you do at home. I hope I'm able to go to Kanawana every year, until I'm old enough to be a leader, and help other fellows have the fun I've had.

Announcer....Thank you very much Junior. That was Junior Taylor, who has camped at Kanawana since he was ten years old. I think you've made us all wish we could be boys again and back at Kanawana with you.

And now, here is Basil Burgess, a third year student at McGill University, and another old-timer. Basil, you are one of the leaders, how long have you been camping at Kanawana?

Burgess.....Since 1930. I was a camper for ~~a~~ six years and a leader



for three. I'm going back this year for my tenth year, my fourth as a leader. And I wouldn't miss it for the world. My years as a camper did a lot for me. They taught me to look after myself and to be self-reliant. That's one of the reasons I wanted to be a leader, and why I keep going back year after year. I feel that I want to help the younger boys, as the leaders helped me when I was a kid.

You know acting as leader and passing on your knowledge and experience is a great thing. We leaders feel we have a real responsibility--but it's fun, too. It's great to see some real greenhorn come to camp and to watch him develop and learn to do things. I remember a fellow who couldn't swim. He was absolutely frightened of the water. A leader took him in hand and gave him personal instruction every day. He had first to overcome the fear of the water. That was a hard job, but he did it. Then came the swimming lessons. It was a long slow process, but before he went home that boy could swim 25 yards. It was a real satisfaction to that leader to know that he had done something worthwhile. That sort of thing goes on all the time. Our job as leaders is to supervise the activities of the campers and to teach them skills in the various activities in which we are proficient ourselves.

Announcer.....That's very interesting, but tell us, Basil, what sort of training do the leaders have? Are they just selected at random, or how is it done?

Burgess.....When a leader comes to camp he knows what it's all about. Before he is accepted he has to attend a training course, when he is given a complete understanding of his job. The course combines theory and practice. Such things as "Understanding Boy Nature" and "How to lead Hikes", are covered in a practical way.



All phases of camp life are covered, and we understand pretty thoroughly what our job is to be, and what our responsibilities are. If a fellow doesn't take in the training course he has small chance of being accepted. Of course he has to be a right living fellow as well because his influence on the boys has got to be a good one.

I don't think there is any finer experience a fellow can have than to spend the summer at Kanawana. He mixes with the right type of boy and the leaders are really interested in him. We think its a great privilege to be there and I just wish every boy in Montreal could join us.

Announcer.....Thank you, Basil. You have made us realize the importance of the leaders at Kanawana. I am sure parents who are listening in will appreciate the seriousness with which you take your responsibilities. It must be gratifying to them to know that there are young men like yourself in charge of each tent and cabin.

Junior Taylor and Basil Burgess have told us, ladies and gentlemen, something of Kanawana from the campers and leaders points of view. Here is Mr. Cartier, father of a boy who camps at Kanawana. Mr. Cartier I wonder what you think of what Junior and Basil have said? Is Kanawana really the wonderful place they describe it to be?

Cartier.....It is indeed. Two years ago when I was interested in sending my ten year old boy to a summer camp, I got a great deal of information about a number of camps and finally selected Kanawana, because I believed it would do what I had in mind for the boy. First of all, it is conducted by the YMCA, and I believe that the YMCA influence is a good one. Its purpose is to develop Christain persons and a Christian Society, and I look



on the camp as a place where this is done. Then I wanted my boy under proper supervision, I wanted him to learn certain skills, and to develop a discipline of himself which every boy should have. Then too I felt he was going to be away from home influence for two months and that I wanted a camp where the spiritual side of life was not neglected. Like every father I wanted my boy to grow up into a self-reliant Christian Gentleman. So I chose Kanawana as the camp to send him to, and I have not been disappointed. For the past two years Jimmie has camped there and I have been a frequent visitor on week ends. To see the boys in action, to see their personalities blossoming forth, to see the care and attention which is given each individual boy, and to learn of the keen personal interest of the staff and leaders is really a wonderful experience.

I was interested in what Junior Taylor said because I have heard my own son say the same thing many times. Basil Burgess spoke of the responsibilities of the leaders. I can endorse that. The precautions which are taken to ensure that the boys are well looked after, and that they will be safe and healthy are really amazing.

One of the features which I like about the camp, is that back of it, determining policies, and taking a keen, intelligent interest in everything that goes on is a Board of Management of twenty-two prominent ~~business~~ Montreal Business and Professional men, who give liberally of their time and effort to ensure the success of the ventures. They are always trying to improve things and this year as you know, we have added a nurse to the staff as a further health measure. The nurse will work closely with the Doctor.



As father of a camper, and as a member of the Board of Management, it has been my privilege to see the camp from all angles and I can assure that any parent can have complete confidence in entrusting their boys to the camp this summer.

We must not forget the boy's angle. While all these precautions are taken, the fact that boys go to camp primarily for fun is not lost sight of. Life at Kanawana is all fun. Even work is play there. It's a great spot for boys.

Announcer.....Thank you Mr. Cartier. You are certainly a great admirer of Kanawana. What you have said is important. They are the things which parents are concerned about as they plan their boys' vacations. Certainly Kanawana has a warm friend in you...  
...But here is Mr. Macdiarmid, chief of the camp. Chief, have you anything to say to our radio audience before we close this series of broadcasts on Kanawana.

Macdiarmid.....There is not much more to be said. Certainly Junior, Basil and Mr. Cartier have spoken most impressively of what we are trying to do. I would like to thank Station CFCF for their kindness in making possible these ~~three~~ broadcasts in which we have been able to tell of what goes on at Kanawana. The camp opens on June 24th and for ten weeks, until September 2nd, will be a hive of activity. Boys between the ages of ten and eighteen are welcome there. Anyone wishing more information should ask at any of the fourteen YMCA branches in the city or telephone MARquette 8331. We will gladly send them our illustrated booklet. The camp exists as a unit of the YMCA to serve the boyhood of Montreal. That is our job. We are trying to do it to the best of our ability.



Announcer.....Thank you, chief, and thank you Junior, Basil and Mr.

Cartier. Ladies and Gentlemen. It has been our pleasure to-  
night to have with us Junior Taylor, camper, Basil Burgess,  
leader, and J. F. Cartier, father and Board Member, telling us  
of Kamp Kanawana, the YMCA camp for boys, in the Laurentians,  
and painting word pictures of what goes on there. Interested  
listeners will receive the camp booklet by calling Marquette  
8331 or any branch of the YMCA. ~~This is the third of a series  
of broadcasts on Kamp Kanawana.~~

This is Station CFCF and Shortwave CFCX, Marconi, Montreal.